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July 1956

M I N U T E S

of the

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of the

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Vienna, Austria
July 26 - 27, 1956

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1. Opening and Roll Call

The meetings of the Committee were held in the Rittersaal of the Niederösterreichische Landtagsgebäude in Vienna.

Dr.Fry, the Chairman, opened the meeting with a worship service after which the General Secretary, Dr.Visser 't Hooft, called the roll. The following members of the Committee were present :

Principal John Baillie
Dr.Eugene C.Blake
Dr.Kathleen Bliss
The Bishop of Chichester
Rev. Peter Dagadu
Bishop O. Dibelius
Prof.Georges Florovsky
Dr. Franklin Clark Fry
Metropolitan James of Philadelphia
Dr.Martin Niemöller
Dr.Ernest A.Payne
Dean Liston Pope
Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill

Members of the Committee absent were: Bishop Barbieri, Archbishop Brilioth, Prof. Hromadka, Metropolitan Juhanon, Bishop de Mel, Archbishop Michael, Bishop Oxnam and Mr.Paul.

Members of the World Council staff attending the meetings were:

Rev.Paul Abrecht,
Dr.R.S.Bilheimer
Dr.Samuel McCrea Cavert
Dr. Edgar H.S.Chandler
Dr.Leslie E.Cooke
Rev.John Garrett
Dr.Norman Goodall
Dr.H.H.Harms
Rev. Francis H.House

Metropolitan James of Melita
Dr.D.T.Niles
Dr.O.F.Nolde
Mr.F.Northam
Dr.Charles W.Ranson
Dr.Elfan Rees
Dr.W.A.Visser 't Hooft.

Sir Kenneth Grubb and Dr.Henry Van Dusen attended a number of sessions.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Gilbulla meeting of the Committee were adopted without amendment.

3. Report of the General Secretary

The General Secretary said that in view of his forthcoming report to the Central Committee his remarks would be brief. Also he could not yet report in detail on the meetings of the World Council Departments and Divisions which had been held at Arnoldshain and Herrenalb. Since the Gilbulla meeting there were new developments in relations with our member churches from which we had been cut off in recent years and the meetings in Hungary provided the possibility of further contacts.

The General Secretary called attention to the important developments arising from the meeting of the Joint Committee of the I.M.C. and W.C.C. and suggested that Dr.Van Dusen, the chairman of the Joint Committee should be asked to make a full report to the Committee. It was agreed to invite Dr.Van Dusen to present a report at the afternoon session.

The General Secretary noted that while the preparation of the next assembly would come up at the Central Committee it would not be opportune to go into it in detail at this time. There was a brief discussion on this point and it was agreed that the next Executive Committee meeting would be an appropriate time for a discussion of themes and programme of the next assembly.

4. Agenda and programme for the Central Committee meeting in Hungary

The General Secretary noted the large attendance expected at the Central Committee meeting in Hungary which would include extra participants from the churches of Poland, Rumania and Hungary and a number of representatives of Christian Councils now in association with the W.C.C. There would also be one observer, Bishop K.H.Ting, from the Chinese churches.

The Bishop of Chichester reported on conversations with Bishop Ting during his recent visit to Great Britain and indicated that Bishop Ting had inquired whether there would be an opportunity at the Central Committee to speak about the situation of the churches in China. Various members said that it would be good to give Bishop Ting an opportunity for a statement and at the suggestion of Dean Pope

it was agreed to hear a report from Bishop Ting in relation to the report of Bishop Manikam on the East Asia Secretariat.

In relation to the meeting in Hungary the General Secretary noted that the invitation to the Central Committee to meet in Hungary had come in 1954 and had been accepted in 1955. This move did not therefore originate in the recent political developments, as was sometimes stated in the press and in other places. The General Secretary also spoke about the significance of the meeting in Hungary and the importance of controlling the situation so as to avoid misrepresentation through the press. This led to a discussion in the Committee the outcome of which was a general agreement that in so far as possible this meeting should be treated in the same way as other Central Committee meetings while reserving the right to deal with certain questions in closed session. It was decided that the session on the report of the Joint Committee of the I.M.C. and W.C.C. should be closed.

The General Secretary submitted an agenda and time schedule for the Central Committee meeting which was adopted after amendment.

At the suggestion of Dr. Bilheimer the following persons were named as chairmen of the sub-committees of the Central Committee: Finance, Dr. Blake; Refugees and Migration, Bishop Lilje; Proselytism and Religious Liberty, Bishop Dun; Reference Committee, Prof. Tindal.

5. Applications for Membership

The General Secretary reported that three churches had made application for membership in the World Council, as follows:

a. The Baptist Church in Hungary: this church had approximately 20,000 baptized adults, with 101 districts and 98 pastors, and 500 congregations. It had existed since 1873. The application had been endorsed by the Ecumenical Council of Hungary and the church had also been a member in good standing of the Baptist World Alliance since 1905.

   Dr.Payne, the vice-chairman, moved that the Executive Committee recommend to the Central Committee that the application of this church be accepted, and the motion was seconded and adopted.

b. The Anglican Church of the Province of Central Africa
   After a brief discussion of the application of this church the Bishop of Chichester moved that the Executive Committee forward it to the Central Committee with the recommendation that it be accepted. This was agreed.

c. The La Plata Synod of the German Evangelical Church in Argentine and Uruguay
   On the motion of Dr.Niemöller the Executive Committee voted to receive the application of this church and forward it to the Central Committee with the recommendation that it be accepted.

The General Secretary indicated that the World Council was still in correspondence with several other churches which had expressed their intention of applying for membership in the Council. As soon as these applications had matured they would be placed before the Executive Committee.

6. National Christian Councils

Dr.Bilheimer reported on relations with National Christian Councils. He stated that the list of Councils which desired to be in association with the World Council was growing and that there would be a meeting of National Council secretaries with World Council staff at Frankfurt for three days, August 8, 9 and 10. One of the questions involved was the regularizing of relations between our W.C.C. departments and the departments of these National Councils. After very careful consideration a very satisfactory arrangement had been worked out in this regard with the National Council of Churches in the U.S.A.

It was reported that the Polish Council of Churches had requested formal relationship with the W.C.C. The General Secretary suggested that before this request be accepted someone from the Geneva staff should go to Poland to meet with the Council. Dr.Cooke suggested that Dr.Schomer might go to Poland for the Division of Inter-Church Aid. At the suggestion of the chairman it was agreed that we should express appreciation to the Polish Council for their application but that final action be deferred until 1957 after members of the staff could meet with the Council.

7. Report of the Joint Committee of the I.M.C. and W.C.C.

The Chairman invited Dr.Van Dusen, the chairman of the Joint Committee, to report to the Executive Committee regarding the meeting of the Joint Committee at Herrenalb.

Dr.Van Dusen said that during the last year events had required us to think about W.C.C. - I.M.C. integration sooner than expected. The March conference of Asian church leaders at Bangkok, the discussions between the I.M.C. and the Division of Inter-Church Aid, these and other developments had caused the Joint Committee to put integration as the chief item on its agenda at its recent meeting.

Three questions had been considered : whether integration should be recommended; when it should occur and how or by what plan it could be realized .

Dr.Van Dusen said that the recommendations of the Joint Committee on these three questions came with nearly unanimous agreement. The Joint Committee believed that integration under certain conditions was desirable, that it might be consummated at or shortly after the next W.C.C.Assembly, and that with the approval of the World Council and the I.M.C., the Joint Committee would seek to prepare a plan of integration to be submitted in 1957. In this connection the Joint Committee in order to be more representative requested that the W.C.C. and the I.M.C. each name four additional members to the representation on the Committee.

Dr.Norman Goodall, the secretary of the Joint Committee, expressed his conviction that integration was a necessary and desirable step in view of the nature of the W.C.C. and the I.M.C. and recent developments in their structure and programme, and Dr.Ranson and Dr. Visser 't Hooft spoke of their conviction that the integration was a desirable step. Dr.Visser 't Hooft said that the World Council representatives had participated very enthusiastically in the Joint Committee meetings. The W.C.C. was incomplete and inhibited when all

that the missionary movement stood for was not an integral part of it. There was also contradiction between what we say about the wholeness of the Church, and the way in which we continue to live apart. He favoured the World Council taking certain immediate steps which would facilitate the integration process. It was also pointed out that integration could not be viewed simply as a question of fitting together the I.M.C. and W.C.C. structures but the problem was to integrate in such a way that the whole of the World Council would be permeated with missionary vision and conviction.

There was a considerable discussion of a motion by Bishop Sherrill that the Executive Committee warmly approve the Central Committee granting authority to the Joint Committee to continue its work on the proposed lines. Father Florovsky and Metropolitan James of Philadelphia pointed out that there was great danger in proceeding too fast. The member churches had not been well informed of the proposals for integration and were very ignorant of the reasons for it. The constituency of the W.C.C. and the I.M.C. and their function were very different and their integration posed many problems. Any proposals would need to be presented with adequate explanation and interpretation. Otherwise great misunderstanding would arise particularly in the Orthodox churches. After extended discussion the following motion was agreed to :

> " that the Committee recommend to the Central Committee the view of the Joint Committee that the time has come when the W.C.C. and I.M.C. should consider afresh the possibility of the integration of the two Councils. The Executive Committee therefore recommends that the Joint Committee be authorized to undertake the formulation - in the fullest possible consultation with all concerned - of a draft plan of integration for presentation to the Central Committee in 1957 and to the I.M.C. Assembly at the Gold Coast in December-January, 1957-1958."

It was also agreed that there should be full consultation and communication with the member churches regarding the question of integration and their views should be solicited at every step. It was also agreed that the Executive Committee should recommend to the Central Committee that the membership of the Joint Committee be increased according to the proposal of the Joint Committee.

Dr.Goodall pointed out that the Joint Committee would draw the attention of the Central Committee to the need for revising the World Council rules regarding membership especially on the question of autonomy to deal with situations where a younger church was still closely linked financially and administratively to a church in the West.

8. Other actions of the Joint Committee

Dr.Goodall, the secretary of the Joint Committee, reported that the Committee decided to postpone permanent appointment of a successor for Bishop Manikam as the East Asia joint secretary of the W.C.C. and the I.M.C. In view of the conference of national representatives of Christian Councils and Churches at Prapat (Indonesia) the Joint Committee recommended the following procedure :

- that Mr.Kyaw Than be appointed as organizing secretary of the Prapat meeting and as East Asia Secretary for one year;

- that the future scope of the East Asia office be reexamined in the light of this conference and the plans for integration and that provision for a nominating procedure for a permanent secretary be studied ;

- that the officers of the World Council Central Committee be authorized to act if decisions regarding a permanent secretary are required before the next meeting of the Central Committee.

This was agreed.

9. Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees

Dr. Cooke, the director of the Division, reviewed for the information of the Executive Committee the actions which the Division would put before the Central Committee. He introduced Dr.Chandler and Dr.Rees who reviewed the situation in the refugee programme. It was agreed that there should be opportunity at the Central Committee to have a careful review of the present refugee situation and the contribution which the Church is making in that situation as well as the possible need to revise the present World Council programme.

10. Division of Ecumenical Action

Mr.Francis House, the director of the Division of Ecumenical Action, presented two points for the information and action of the Executive Committee as follows :

a) The relation of the World Council's Youth Department to the World Council of Christian Education. The present relationship was ten years old and it was now a question whether the relationship should become closer or more separate. The Youth Department requested that a small commission of two or three persons from each side examine the relationship and it requested the Executive Committee to appoint two or three persons to represent the W.C.C. It was agreed to do this.

b) The Division of Ecumenical Action had been requested to follow-up the Evanston Assembly report on Race and Ethnic Tensions. Through the help of the National Council of Churches (U.S.A.)the services of Dr.Oscar Lee would be secured for three months in early 1957 to visit some areas of race and ethnic tension and prepare a report on the specific action required of the World Council in this field. There would be a small meeting of experts in 1957 in the U.S.A. to review his report and to prepare a statement for the Central Committee in 1957. Mr.House indicated that the Central Committee would be asked to review the main line of this plan and give its official support. The Committee agreed to this procedure.

11. Relations with the Moscow Patriarchate

Dr.Fry began by explaining that the General Secretary had received a letter from the Moscow Patriarchate in reply to the letter sent by the Central Committee at Davos, but this reply had been more

of an acknowledgement than an answer. Therefore during his visit to Moscow with the American delegation he had sought to discuss the question of future relations with Metropolitan Nikolai.

He found the Metropolitan very anxious for such a talk. In their conversation Dr.Fry emphasized that a small group from the World Council was ready to meet with a group from the Moscow Patriarchate at any time or any place suitable to them. Such a meeting would not imply a commitment.

The Metropolitan replied that the Russian Orthodox were also much interested in such conversations but the 1948 Orthodox conference in Moscow had laid down a policy regarding relations between Orthodox Churches and the World Council and therefore other Orthodox Churches which were a party to this conference would need to be consulted. However he was sure they would agree to a proposal to review their attitude as expressed in 1948.

The Russian Church itself was prepared to review all decisions taken in 1948. The Russian Orthodox were undergoing a transition in their view of the World Council and they felt that this was possible because the World Council was also undergoing a transition. The World Council was no longer making the political question its foremost concern but was concentrating on moral questions. The change was evident at Evanston and especially after Evanston political questions were not so prominent. The Metropolitan suggested that further conversations should proceed according to the following understanding :

1) political and diplomatic matters are not to enter into the discussion ;

2) discussion should concentrate on help to underdeveloped countries ;

3) there should also be discussion of social questions, that is help to our neighbours ;

4) there should also be a discussion of peace on the basis of the Evanston statement of Section IV.

The Metropolitan agreed that there would be no mention of the World Peace Council. He emphasized repeatedly that in the statements of Evanston we have the basis for a common meeting.

A meeting was not possible before the autumn and it was agreed that the Metropolitan would write Dr.Visser 't Hooft about the subjects for such a meeting after Dr.Visser 't Hooft had "acknowledged his acknowledgment". The Metropolitan had stated : "Then this conversation is the rock on which we will build". The most likely place suggested for the meeting was Paris and there was a tentative plan for such a meeting toward the end of January. This first meeting was to be on a small basis, with 3 to 5 on each side.

In answer to a question from Dr.Payne regarding action to be taken by the Committee it was agreed that the Central Committee should hear and be asked to approve the report of Dr.Fry.

Dr.Florovsky emphasized that in discussions with the Russian Church leaders we must not overlook the documents of the 1948 Conference which included a strong attack on the World Council. Furthermore the reference of Metropolitan Nikolaï to peace as one of the topics for discussion is too ambiguous. We must be clearer about the basis of these conversations.

Metropolitan James of Philadelphia wished to express his pleasure that the Church of Russia had changed its mind about the World Council and also that there would be a meeting of the World Council representatives with the Orthodox leaders of Russia. The Ecumenical Patriarchate deplored the meeting of 1948. The Ecumenical Patriarchate had been invited to send a delegation to Russia in May (1956), but had replied by inviting the Patriarch of Russia to come to Istanbul to discuss the changes in their views. Metropolitan James noted that in discussions with the Russian Church the question of religious freedom should not be overlooked. Will the Russian Church be able to bring the idea of the World Council before their own people ? The Ecumenical Patriarchate is very happy that the Orthodox Church of Russia will resume relations with the Ecumenical Movement.

After further discussion of the significance of the proposed meeting in January it was agreed that the Executive Committee should recommend to the Central Committee that the appointment of the delegation from the World Council should be left to the discretion of the officers of the Central Committee.

The General Secretary said that a communication had also been received very recently from the Patriarch of Roumania, indicating that the Synod of the Roumanian Orthodox Church had discussed relations with the World Council in June (1956) which seemed to indicate that they were aware of developments between the Russian Orthodox Church and the World Council. The Roumanians in their letter expressed a desire to have contacts with the World Council.

12. Report of C.C.I.A.

Sir Kenneth Grubb and Dr.Frederick Nolde reported on the work of the C.C.I.A. especially on the results of the recent conferences at Arnoldshain and Herrenalb. They noted that the C.C.I.A. was celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. Dr.Nolde also read a statement on the Cyprus situation prepared at the Herrenalb meeting and indicated that the C.C.I.A. planned to release this statement immediately to the press in view of the urgency of giving their view on the present situation.

Sir Kenneth Grubb noted that the Arnoldshain Conference had requested the World Council to study the problem of population and family planning. After a brief discussion it was decided to follow a suggestion of Dean Pope and turn this question over to the Division of Studies to be taken up in relation to the Rapid Social Change study and with a recommendation to the Central Committee to this effect.

13. Report on the situation of the Protestant Seminary in Spain

The General Secretary said that it was necessary to follow up the action of the Executive Committee at Gilbulla on the question of the closing of the Protestant Seminary in Spain. While the seals

have been removed from the doors, the seminary is not operating because the legal situation has not been made clear by the government. There is evident tension within several ministries in the Spanish government over the handling of the situation. The Executive Committee must decide what further action should be taken. It seemed better to act in Vienna on this question. A short resolution was prepared and agreed to and the text of the resolution is as follows:

" The Executive Committee notes that in spite of the protest which it made at its meeting in Australia last February and the serious concern expressed by the churches in many countries, the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Madrid is still closed because it has not yet received permission to function.
" The Executive Committee reiterates its strong conviction that according to the principles of religious liberty as laid down in the U.N.Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for the observance of which Spain as a member of the United Nations must accept moral responsibility, the Seminary should be allowed to fulfil its task to train ministers for the Evangelical Churches in Spain, and urges strongly that the right of the Seminary to function will be specifically and immediately recognized.
" The Executive Committee is fully convinced, according to the information laid before it, that the existence and full functioning of the Seminary are in complete accord with the rights and liberties of Spanish citizens as guaranteed by constitutional provisions. "

14. <u>The World Council and the Orthodox Churches</u>

Metropolitan James of Philadelphia expressed the appreciation of the Ecumenical Patriarch for the support of the Executive Committee through its declaration at Gilbulla regarding the destruction and violence visited upon the Orthodox Churches of Istanbul. This support was very helpful and a real evidence of Christian fellowship.

Metropolitan James of Melita reported on his visit to different Orthodox Churches in Asia and the Near East. He had visited the Orthodox Churches of South India, Ethiopia, Egypt and the Lebanon. There was great interest in the W.C.C. in all these churches, and he especially remarked on the interest of the Emperor of Ethiopia.

15. <u>Report of the Finance Sub-Committee</u>

Dr.Blake presented the report of the Finance Sub-Committee and explained that no endeavour had been made to cover the full Finance Committee Agenda. The Finance Sub-Committee had dealt with those matters which come within the competence of the Executive Committee and had given preliminary consideration to certain important matters. In presenting the following report Dr.Blake gave explanatory detail on some of the items in the course of his presentation :

" a) <u>Personnel Questions</u>

The Sub-Committee recommends that the Executive Committee give approval to :

i) eight salary increases to office staff members, recommended by the General Secretariat, one of them retro-active to January 1, 1956 and the others effective from July 1, 1956.

ii) grants of dependent relatives allowances to two office staff members, both retro-active to January 1, 1956.

iii) one revision of salary for a member of the Secretarial Staff, effective from the date of his engagement early in 1956.

iv) payment of travel for home leave of the family of one Secretarial Staff member.

b) Borrowing Powers

The Finance Sub-Committee noted that use had not been made of the borrowing powers renewed at the last meeting but that the General Secretariat requested a further renewal of those powers, since need to use them might still arise. The Sub-Committee recommends to the Executive :

' that authority be given until the next meeting of the Executive Committee to the General Secretary or his stated representative acting together with the Director of Finance and Administration to borrow money if necessary against the World Council's investments to provide the necessary funds to maintain the operations of the Service to Refugees. '

c) Bank Signatories

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends the adoption of the following resolution to regularize the position regarding authorized signatories on the safe-keeping account with Guaranty Trust Company of New York:

' That the Guaranty Trust Company of New York be and hereby is designated a depositary of the World Council of Churches for the safekeeping of securities and that deposits and withdrawals of securities free of payment and against payment be made upon and according to written orders signed jointly by two of the following persons :

Dr. W.A.Visser 't Hooft	- General Secretary
Dr. Robert S.Bilheimer	- Associate General Secretary
Dr. Leslie E.Cooke	- Associate General Secretary
Mr. Francis H.House	- Associate General Secretary
Mr. F.Northam	- Director of the Finance and Administration Department
Mr. W.F.Kordon	- Chief Accountant '

d) General Budget

The Finance Sub-Committee noted that the result for 1955 - a deficit of $ 873.47 - was better than had been forecast at the '

meetings in Davos and in Australia and that the present situation for 1956 suggested a deficit of about $ 5,000 on the current year's operations. The General Secretariat proposed that the Central Committee be asked to authorize a 1957 General Budget of $ 460,000, though present expectations of revenue for 1957 amounted to $ 447,500 to $ 450,000.

The Sub-Committee recalled that a number of new member churches had been admitted since the Evanston Assembly and that the Evanston Assembly had specifically authorized the Central Committee to seek from all member churches a proper proportion of support and, if income allows, "to initiate such advances in programme as in its judgment are the most pressing and promise to be the most fruitful". Contributions from the newly-elected member churches might well raise total income from member church contributions above the level of $ 420,000 p.a. suggested by the Evanston Assembly and ease the present position under which the cost of the programme tends to exceed available income.

This matter will come before the Finance Committee and Central Committee, where final action will be taken.

e) Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees

i) Travel Loan Fund

The Finance Sub-Committee noted that the position had improved slightly since the report received at the Gilbulla meeting. The over-draft on the fund had declined from about $ 380,000 at the end of 1955 to a little over the $ 200,000 at June 30, 1956 and was expected to continue at about that level through the third quarter of 1956. The elimination of the over-draft not later than the end of 1957 was still the objective and could be expected. Meanwhile, the over-draft was very fully covered by the debts due by refugees in respect of loans granted; the total of those debts, at the end of 1955, was more than $ 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ million.

ii) Service Programme

The Finance Sub-Committee received a report on the discussions on this question at the Administrative Committee of the Division. The accumulated deficit on the Service to Refugees at the end of 1955 amounted to about $ 230,000. Grant-earning movements to the U.S.A. under the Refugee Relief Act were now increasing and the deficit would be substantially reduced by the end of the operation under that act. It is however not clear whether total grant-earning movements will reach 18,000; it is forecast that if they do reach that level, it will still not be possible to eliminate the total deficit brought forward from past years and if movements fall short of that level, the uncleared deficit will be correspondingly greater. The figures should be reasonably clear by the Executive Committee meeting in February 1957. The Administrative Committee of the Division recommended that this position should be reported to the Central Committee and that the member Churches in the U.S.A. should be asked whether they would consider accepting responsibility, when the amount can be determined early in 1957, for raising a special fund to clear the deficit at the end of the R.R.A. The amount is expected not to exceed $ 100,000 and will almost certainly not exceed $ 150,000.

As regards the on-going programme, the Service to Refugees falls within the Service Programme of the Division. The total contributions requested from the member churches to the Service Programme were reduced from $ 750,000 in 1955 and previous years to $ 725,000 in 1956 and the allocation to the Service to Refugees from $ 450,000 in 1955 to $ 425,000 in 1956. The Administrative Committee observed that the refugee problem is by no means solved and the needs continue to be as pressing as ever and therefore recommended that in 1957 the programme be restored to the level of $ 750,000 p.a. and the allocation to the Service to Refugees within that programme raised to $ 445,000 p.a. and that it be recognised that this level of support and programme appear necessary throughout the period up to the third Assembly.

f) Solicitation of Funds from Special Sources

The Finance Sub-Committee discussed and agreed to recommend to the Executive Committee approval of the following proposals:

a) that authority be given for endeavours to be made to secure special funds, within the framework of the principles established for the solicitation of special funds, to cover expenditures outside the budget at a rate of not more than $ 15,000 p.a. for the period up to the Third Assembly for the purpose of strengthening the staff of the translation section.

b) that authority be given for approaches to be made to non-church sources to secure special gifts for scholarship grants at a rate not exceeding $ 5,000 p.a. to students at the Graduate School and members of the courses for Ministers, Theological Students and Laymen.

g) Provident Fund

The Finance Sub-Committee was informed that there would be advantage in transforming the Provident Fund of the World Council from an "association" into a "fondation" under Swiss law and that action to this effect had been taken by the Provident Fund, in General Meeting. The "Fondation" would have a governing council of seven, four of whom should be nominated by the World Council. The Sub-Committee agreed to recommend that the following persons should be nominated as members of the council of the "Fondation" :

Dr. W.A.Visser 't Hooft

M. George Lombard

Mr. Frank Northam

Mr. Roman Ritter. "

The Executive Committee received the report and agreed to adopt all of the recommendations of the Finance Sub-Committee.

16. Report of the Committee on Headquarters Properties

Dr.Blake reported that the ad hoc Headquarters Properties Committee had met during the afternoon and reviewed the position. He reported that the survey which had been made at the direction of

the meeting of the Executive Committee in Australia had not revealed any available properties at alternative sites in Geneva as advantageous as the present properties at route de Malagnou. He further reported that, as a result of negotiations with the authorities the World Council now had the possibility of securing 15 route de Malagnou and a part of 11 route de Malagnou in order to increase the ground area available for the development plan. At Dr.Blake's request, Mr.Northam explained in detail the proposed property transactions whereby the World Council would become the owner of 15 route de Malagnou and a part of 11 route de Malagnou as well as the presently held properties of 17 and 19 route de Malagnou.

Dr.Blake also reported on the discussions in the ad hoc Headquarters Properties Committee concerning the choice of an architect to be commissioned to make plans for the new properties and on the progress made in securing grants towards the fund.

Dr.Blake moved the adoption of the following recommendations which had been adopted by the ad hoc Headquarters Properties Committee :

a) That the Central Committee authorize the purchase of additional property adjacent to 15 route de Malagnou at a price of Fr 450,000.

b) That the Central Committee authorize the borrowing of up to Fr 450,000 for this purchase by mortgage of the whole Malagnou property or against securities.
(It should be noted that $ 200,000 of the authorized $ 750,000 for Headquarters Properties Development Fund is presently assured).

c) That the Central Committee ask its members promptly to nominate to the Chiarman of the ad hoc Headquarters Properties Committee, architects of outstanding reputation who are known to them and preferably who are active church men and Christians.

d) That the Central Committee authorize the ad hoc Headquarters Properties Committee to select an architect from the names so put forward to develop the long-range plan for the World Council headquarters, to provide initially 100 - 150 offices, a chapel and a library but ultimately to provide for prudent expansion and the replacement of all present buildings.

It is understood that the architect selected will be requested to associate with him Mr.Lesemann, the architect who has so long been associated with our planning.

The Executive Committee discussed and agreed to adopt the above recommendations to the Central Committee.

17. <u>The Basis of the W.C.C.</u>

Dr Payne, the vice-chairman , reported on recent developments in the work of the Committee regarding the Basis. There had been many

who requested a change in the Basis and also many who were opposed to any change. The problem of procedure is real primarily because it has been difficult to get a meeting of the entire Basis sub-committee. It was important that the sub-committee should have a full meeting soon in order to prepare for a discussion at the Central Committee next year. Could the Central Committee give the sub-committee power to co-opt persons to replace those who could not attend a meeting? It was agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that the membership be slightly enlarged to remedy this situation.

18. Relation with the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A.

The General Secretary said that there was need for a discussion of ecumenical policy with the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. He asked that two members of the Executive Committee be named to meet in Geneva next February with a small group from these two bodies. This was agreed to and Dean Pope and Mrs.Bliss agreed to participate for the World Council in these consultations.

19. Future Meetings

It was agreed to recommend to the Central Committee to accept the invitation to hold the 1958 meeting of the Central Committee in Rhodes. The British Council had invited the Executive Committee to have its winter meeting in February 1958 at William Temple College. This was agreed to with appreciation to the British Council of Churches and the director of William Temple College. Dean Pope asked about departmental and divisional meetings in the U.S.A. in the summer of 1957, in view of the need to make arrangements. It was agreed that Mr.House should prepare a list of such meetings for discussion at the Central Committee .

20. The Library of the World Council

The General Secretary reported that Dr.Raymond Morris of the Yale University Divinity Library had made a study of the World Council's Library during this last spring and that a report had recently been received with his recommendations for the future reorganization of the Library. There had not been time to study this report. In so far as it involved recommendation regarding building, the report would be referred to the Committee on Headquarters Properties. It was decided that the Staff should present other recommendations on the future of the Library to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

21. Staff Matters

The following report of the Staffing Committee was made by Dr.Payne :

1. Miss Betty Thompson of the Department of Information is leaving Geneva for personal reasons. Upon recommendation of the Working Committee of the Department of Information, the Staffing Committee proposes :

   that Miss Thompson be appointed for three years to work in the New York Office, her time to be divided between work for the Department of Information and work for the U.S.Conference of Member Churches, with the provision that the Executive Committee of the U.S.Conference confirm this appointment.

2. A name from England was mentioned as a possible successor to Miss Thompson in the Department of Information. Dr.Payne and Dr. Bliss were authorized to investigate the suitability of this person, and if their report is favourable, it is proposed that the officers of the Executive Committee be empowered to make the appointment.

3. It is proposed to approve the appointment of Mr.Kyaw Than of Burma, now Associate General Secretary of the World's Student Christian Federation, who is to commence work on October 1, 1956 for one year as Joint Secretary in East Asia of the I.M.C. and the W.C.C.

4. It was reported that a proposal has been made for the appointment of a Youth Department Secretary in the Near East for a period of two years. This possibility has been discussed with the I.M.C. Possible persons to fill the post are being explored.

5. It is proposed that Mr.William Perkins, Secretary in the Youth Department for the Work Camp programme, be reappointed for a period of two years.

6. It was reported that Mr.Molander desires to leave his post as Executive Secretary of the Youth Department at the end of his present term in 1957, to return to his Church in Sweden.

7. It is proposed that Mr.John Taylor, Secretary in the Department of Information, be reappointed for a period of three years.

8. It is proposed that the services of Mr.W.Lesher of the United Lutheran Church in the U.S.A. be accepted for one year in the Department on Church and Society, and that his title be "Research Assistant in the Department on Church and Society".

9. It is proposed that the offer of the Disciples of Christ of the services of Dr.Harry Partin be accepted. Dr.Partin is to serve for two years within the Division of Studies in relation to the joint study of the Department on Evangelism and the Department of Missionary Studies on Christianity and non-Christian faiths.

10. It is proposed that the Division of Studies be authorized to appoint an additional person for a period of two years, to work on the joint study of the Department on Evangelism and the Department of Missionary Studies on Christianity and non-Christian faiths, providing that at least half of his salary will be provided by an agency other than the W.C.C.

11. The Committee considered the list of those whose appointments expire in 1957, and requested the General Secretary to discuss plans with those involved with a view of reporting to the Executive Committee in February, 1957.

12. The Committee desires to call the attention of the U.S.Conference of Member Churches to the fact that Dr.Cavert's appointment expires in 1957, and to the W.C.C. rule concerning retirement age. The Committee requests that the U.S.Conference will advise it and the Executive Committee at its February meeting.

The report was approved.

22. Closing Devotions

The closing devotions were led by the Bishop of Chichester, following which the meetings were adjourned.